

Black Barbarossa Grape.

624. SIR,—Please tell me where I can obtain the Black Barbarossa grape, as I don't see it offered for sale by any grower. I would like to have your opinion as to its hardiness and adaptability to the Canadian climate; also how it acts under glass? I have just built a vinery and would give it a place among others if its worth while.

Reply by Prof. L. H. Bailey, Cornell University.

Black Barbarossa is one of the Vinifera class, and is only adapted to cultivation under glass in the north. I do not know who handles it, but should write Ellwanger & Barry for it.

* Open Letters. *

Plums and other Fruits in Wellington.

SIR,—As I have not written to the HORTICULTURIST for a long time, I will now ask your indulgence for a few remarks anent the destruction of plums in this neighborhood (North Wellington) last winter. As there seems to be no report about it, so far as I can learn, I would say the damage done was extensive, about 75 per cent. being killed to the ground. The Lombards suffered most, and, were it not that the young unbearing trees shared the same fate as the bearing ones, I would blame its heavy-bearing propensity as the cause of its being more attacked than others. However, it must be remembered that it is more extensively grown here than any other variety. The following varieties were killed with me: Lombard, Yellow Gage, Jefferson, Niagara, Saratoga, Shipper's Pride, Glass' Seedling, General Hand, Washington and German Prune.

The following were uninjured: Pond's Seedling, Duane Purple, Smith's Orleans, and Damson. I might remark that I consider the Smith's Orleans the best all-round plum that I know of; it is hardy, a good bearer, of good quality to eat out of hand or to preserve, and large in size. I ought to say that some people attribute the death among our plums as being caused by the trees shedding their leaves the summer before, and had to go to the wall by weakened vitality. This view seems to have truth on its side, as the trees have lived through more severe winters than last one.

It is now about twelve years since a disease killed off a large number of our best plums. It happened in summer, when the trees were loaded with fruit. The leaves dropped off, and the plums rotted on the trees; likewise, a very disagreeable smell was emitted from the diseased sap. I for one looked in vain for a solution of the mystery from you wise men of the HORTICULTURIST, but they either had not heard of it, or did not take enough interest in the matter. It may be of use to those who may purchase plum trees, to know what sorts are most subject to black knot. The following kinds I have had for years without any sign of it, viz.: Pond's Seedling, Duane's Purple, Smith's Orleans, Yellow Gage, and Jefferson. The Lombard, Damson and Saratoga are so much subject to it, that they should never be planted.

I must not omit to state that the much lauded Pearl gooseberry turned out to be nothing more nor less than the Downing, with me and others. Mr. Smith may have made a mistake in digging up the Downing in place of the Pearl.

F. W. PORTER, *Mount Forest.*

NOTE.—Mr. Smith tells us that when the Pearl is allowed to overload, the berries are not larger than Downing, which they much resemble, but that it excels all its competitors in productiveness.